

Message Text

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41

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 SYE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /037 W

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O R 181355Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3396

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1993

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, OVIP, ASEC (ROBINSON, CHARLES W.)

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON VISIT TO NIGERIA: SECURITY

REF: A. LAGOS 1924 B. STATE 36540 C. 35156

1. LEAVING ASKED QUESTION OF TIMING ROBINSON VISIT IN VIEW CURRENT CONDITIONS IN COUNTRY, WE RAISED WITH MEA THIS MORNING QUESTION OF UNDER SECRETARY'S SECURITY AND FACT HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE ARMED SECURITY OFFICERS. NEED FOR UNDER SECRETARY'S SECURITY PUT IN CONTEXT HISTORY OF TERRORISM RECENT YEARS AND FACT ROBINSON ITINERARY INCLUDES MIDDLE EAST STOPS AFTER LAGOS VISIT. (FYI: QUESTION OF FMG CONCURRENCE THIS MATTER HAS BECOME SOMEWHAT CRITICAL IN VIEW CONTINUED TENSE MOOD IN COUNTRY FOLLOWING LAST FRIDAY'S ASSASSINATION HEAD OF STATE, FAILURE APPREHEND ASSASSIN, AND JITTERY MOOD OF MANY NIGERIAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES. WE WOULD NOTE THAT VISITORS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICES BEING SUBJECTED TO INTENSE SECURITY MEASURES, INCLUDING BODY SEARCHES. END FYI).

2. MEA OFFICIAL SAID THAT NO RPT NO ARMS COULD BE BROUGHT INTO COUNTRY AND THAT NIGERIAN SECURITY PERSONNEL WOULD PICK UP WEAPONS AT TIME OF ENTRY TO BE HELD UNTIL DEPARTURE. OFFICIAL SAID THAT FMG WOULD BE EMBARRASSED TO THINK THAT IT COULD NOT PROTECT IMPORTANT VISITORS, MENTIONING THAT NIGERIAN SECURITY FORCES HAD PROVIDED SECURITY FOR WEST GERMANS AMONG OTHERS. ASKED WHICH NIGERIAN SECURITY FORCES WOULD PROVIDE THE PROTECTION REQUIRED, MEA OFFICIAL SAID THAT FORCE WOULD BE PROVIDED BY CABINET OFFICE
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(EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT).

3. EMBOFFS SAID THEY WOULD REPORT NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT POSITION
TO WASHINGTON.
EASUM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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